

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this paper.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for implementing a trader service having an offer space made up of bindings between the service types and interfaces and properties associated with the service types, the method comprising:
- (a) creating a trader service, the trader service being arranged to store the ~~persistent information~~ offer space in a persistent manner such that when the trader service is restarted the offer space is rebuilt without any loss of information; and
- (b) creating at least one storage mechanism arranged to persistently store the ~~persistent information~~ offer space; wherein the at least one storage mechanism comprises a directory service using a hierarchical object-oriented information model.
2. (Original) A computer-implemented method as recited in claim 1 wherein the directory service is compliant with LDAP version 2.
3. (Original) A computer-implemented method as recited in claim 2 the method further comprising:
- (c) creating a data store interface for interacting with the directory service, wherein such interaction comprises the use of protocol compliant with LDAP version 2.

4. (Original) A computer-implemented method as recited in claim 3 wherein the trader service is compliant with CORBA CosTrader Specification.

5. (Currently Amended) A trader service within a computer system, the trader service being arranged to persistently store ~~persistent information~~ an offer space made up of bindings between the service types and interfaces and properties associated with the service types, the trader service comprising:

(a) at least one storage mechanism arranged to store the ~~persistent information~~ offer space, wherein the at least one storage mechanism comprises a directory service using a hierarchical object-oriented information model;

(b) a data store interface for interacting with the directory service, wherein such interaction comprises the use of protocol compliant with LDAP version 2.

6. (Currently Amended) A computer system arranged to implement a trader service, the trader service being arranged to persistently store ~~persistent information~~ an offer space made up of bindings between the service types and interfaces and properties associated with the service types, the computer system comprising:

(a) a processor;

(b) a data store interface for interacting with the at least one storage mechanism; and

(c) at least one storage mechanism arranged to store the ~~persistent information~~ offer space, wherein the at least one storage mechanism is in the form of a directory service, using a hierarchical object-oriented information model, encapsulated in the data store interface.

7: (Original) A computer system as recited in claim 6 wherein, the interaction between the data store interface and the at least one storage mechanism comprises the use of protocol compliant with LDAP version 2.

8. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for implementing a trader service, the computer program product comprising:

(a) computer code that creates a trader service, the trader service being arranged to persistently store ~~persistent information~~ an offer space made up of bindings between the service types and interfaces and properties associated with the service types, wherein the at least one storage mechanism is arranged to store the ~~persistent information~~ offer space;

(b) computer code that creates a data store interface for interacting with the at least one storage mechanism;

(c) computer code that creates the at least one storage mechanism arranged to store the ~~persistent information~~ offer space, wherein the at least one storage mechanism is encapsulated in the data store interface, and wherein the at least one storage mechanism comprises a directory service using a hierarchical object-oriented information model; and

(d) a computer readable medium that stores the computer codes.

9. (Original) A computer program product as recited in claim 8 wherein:

the interaction between the data store interface and the at least one storage mechanism comprises the use of protocol compliant with LDAP version 2; and wherein

the directory service is compliant with LDAP version 2.

10. (Original) A computer program product as recited in claim 9 wherein the computer readable medium is a code representation embodied in a carrier wave.
